

which formerly covered the cornea has been removed, partly by operation and partly by absorption, to such an extent that three-fourths of the pupil are now perfectly clear; and the vision is almost, if not altogether, as good with this eye as with the other. So little irritation was produced by the operation, that the lad returned to his work (that of a plasterer) the day after the second suture was removed.

"Although, owing to the unfortunate detachment of one of the sutures, the success of this operation has not been so complete as it might otherwise have been, still the relief afforded in a case which is universally condemned as hopeless has been so striking that I earnestly trust that this very ingenious and simple operation may have a further trial in this country; this, so far as I am aware, having been the only occasion on which it has been performed. Among the labouring and manufacturing population, who are in an especial manner exposed to the accidents by which symblepharon is produced, there must be many who are suffering from all its inconveniences, who would gladly avail themselves of any chance of relief by surgical means, and who might perhaps ere now have been relieved, had this mode of operating been known and attempted. To speak confidently, from the results of two operations (M. Blandin's and my own), would be premature. All I would wish to enforce is, that the method proposed appears to be founded on just and scientific principles; that it is the only one hitherto proposed which is at all likely to be adopted in this country for the relief of a very distressing affection, hitherto considered as irremediable; and, finally, that it has proved successful in the only two instances, so far as I am aware, in which it has been performed."

[Where the adhesion is extensive, and the bands long, this operation may be successfully resorted to; but we have met with cases where the lid and ball were so closely united that no flap could be made. In a case in which there was only one narrow connecting band, we, several years since (1843), divided the band, and united the edges of the cut on the inner surface of the lid by suture, with the most satisfactory result. Mr. Wilde has since performed the same operation, but brought together the edges of the conjunctiva, on the eyeball as well as on the eyelid, by sutures. The former, we are persuaded, is unnecessary.—EDITOR.]

MIDWIFERY.

53. *Use of the Speculum.*—Dr. ROBERT LEE read before the Royal Med. and Chirg. Soc. (June 9, 1857) some further observations on the use of the speculum in the diagnosis and treatment of uterine diseases. He referred to the tabular statement of 220 cases of real and imaginary disease of the uterus, published in the 38th volume of the *Medico-Chirurgical Transactions*, and presented in a similar tabular form the details of eighty additional cases which had since come under his observation. Of the 300 patients, 47 were unmarried; one had barely completed her 18th year, several were under 20, and the majority under 30 years of age, and were suffering from hysteria, leucorrhœa, dysmenorrhœa, or some nervous affection of the uterus, without inflammation, ulceration, or any structural disease or displacement of the organ. In Case 256, the patient had been told that the womb was prolapsed and much ulcerated, and an instrument had been introduced for six weeks, with an aggravation of all the symptoms. The hymen was found so perfect on examination that it was impossible to reach the os uteri without using an unjustifiable degree of violence. On the ground of morality, and on every other ground, he could see no defence for the employment of the speculum in these 47 cases. Of the 300 patients 70 were barren, and the sterility was not removed nor the other symptoms relieved in a single instance. Several of these individuals spoke with horror and shame of the treatment to which they had submitted. A considerable number of the cases were suffering from cancerous disease, in all of which the symptoms seemed to have been aggravated by the treatment. In Case 236

the character of the disease was unmistakable, but after an examination with the speculum a favourable prognosis had been given, and the actual cautery employed for months, and hopes of recovery held out to the last. The author expressed his conviction, that neither in the living nor in the dead body had he ever seen a case of simple ulceration from chronic inflammation of the os or cervix uteri, and to apply the term to states of the os uteri in which the mucous membrane, or, as it is termed by some, the basement membrane is not destroyed by ulceration, was an abuse of language calculated only to deceive and mislead the members of the medical profession, from whom the truth has been carefully concealed. The speculum emanates from the syphilitic wards of the hospitals at Paris, and it would have been better for the women of England had its use been confined to those institutions.—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, June 20, 1857.

54. *Statistics of Coiling of the Funis.*—Dr. WEIDEMANN states that among 28,430 deliveries the funis has been found coiled around the child in 3379 instances. In 3230 of these it was coiled around the neck, and in 149 around other parts of the body. Of the 3230 cases, 2546 consisted in a simple coil, and in 684 there were several coils. In relation to the causes of this occurrence, it is interesting to notice that of 1788 cases occurring at the Marburg Midwifery Institution, the funis was in 80 (1:22.2) under 15 inches, and in 183 above 25 inches (1:9.71) in length; that in 54 (1:33) there was very little liq. amnii, and in 41 (1:43.6) there was very much; in 165 (1:10.8) the child was under five pounds weight, and in 28 (1:61.7) it was above eight pounds. Therefore, among the favouring causes of the occurrence may be mentioned a long funis, abundance of liq. amnii, and a small child.

Among 2930 infants born at Marburg 182 (1:16.09) were dead, and 251 (1:12.41) were stillborn. Of 725 born with coiled funis, 45 (1:16.11) were dead, and 72 (1:10.06) were stillborn. Of the 45 dead-born, in 18 only could the death be referred to this alone, *i. e.* only 1:40.2 in the 725 examples of coiling. From an examination of the figures derived from the midwifery institutions at Dresden, Göttingen, Würzburg, Berlin, and Marburg, it results that of 13,720 new-born infants, 902 (1:15.21) were born dead; while in 1217 instances of coiling of the funis 31 children were born dead, whose death could be attributed to that circumstance, giving a proportion of 1:39 to the coilings, and 1:19 to the number born dead.

Thus, as (1) the 16th child among new-born children in general, as well as among those in which coiling has taken place, is born dead; as (2) the 12th child among the new-born in general, and the 10th among those around whom the funis is coiled is born stillborn; and as (3) in 1 child in 40 only can this coiling be regarded as really the cause of death, it is evident that this accident does not occupy a very prominent place.—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, July 18, 1857, from *Monatschrift für Geburtskunde*, Bd. viii.

55. *Statistics of Placenta Prævia.*—Dr. SCHWARZ, of Fulda, in Hesse-Cassel, having heard the frequency of placenta prævia stated in a medical society as far greater than he had hitherto believed it to be, examined in reference to this point the official returns made by the Hesse practitioners. These were supplied by 150 accoucheurs, during a period of 20 years, *i. e.* from 1835 to 1854 inclusive. They related to 519,328 births, and among these were only 332 cases of placenta prævia—the numbers varying from 8 to 28 per annum. Of these 332 cases, 246 women recovered and 86 died: 251 children were born dead, and 85 were born living. In 40 instances the women were primiparous, and in 292 pluriparous. Podalic version was performed in 259 cases, and cephalic version in 7; while in 23 instances the children were removed by the forceps, in 6 by craniotomy, and in 13 by post-mortem Cæsarean section. In 8 instances the placenta was removed, and in 16 the plug was resorted to.—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, May 30, 1857, from *Monatsch. für Geburtskunde*. Bd. viii.

56. *Sudden Death after Parturition, with Air in the Veins.*—By GEO. MAY, Jr., Esq. That death may result from the entrance of air into the veins during